

Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association

Volume 3, Number 9

Fall 1992

President's Message

Members will have seen that our newsletter package is a little bulkier than usual this issue. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority provided us with copies of its newsletter that is intended to keep residents of the watershed informed on current issues and initiatives, and to inspire us to become more involved in the resolution of some of the problems that face us.

The RVCA, now in its 27th year, is very active these days, and is particularly interested in seeing whether a lakes stewardship program that embraces the entire area may be put together. To this end, the Authority invited a number of representatives of lake associations and other interested parties to a dinner meeting in Perth several weeks ago. The guests saw a video tape program entitled "The Endless Ribbon", about the Rideau watershed. It will be broadcast on TV Ontario in the early part of the new year. Officials and members of the Authority then spoke of their hopes to increase the involvement of residents and interested parties in the issue of water quality in particular. The RVCA clearly plans to take a leading role in managing water quality in the future. In a booklet entitled "Rideau Valley Conservation Authority - Reflections of Twenty Five Years of Conservation in the Rideau Valley", the following passage is illustrative:

It is clear that the Authority believes in itself and is talking about itself as the most logical, best equipped and most experienced group to coordinate an effective conservation partnership of many contributing agencies and individuals.

The residents, the special interest groups, the cottagers, the academics, the politicians, virtually everyone agrees that one agency should coordinate comprehensive watershed management. The Authority is ready, willing and able to be that lead agency. The Rideau River watershed can become a model of ecological integrity where human needs are met in balance with the needs of the environment.

That's a worthwhile goal, no doubt. It's also a tall order, since, as we all know there are scores of opinions on where that balance lies. Nonetheless, in view of the Authority's intentions, it is wise of it to provide us all with the information at an early stage. Undoubtedly, it will be asking for input and broad support from all those who agree with the need for a coordi-

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST 2, 1992

Angus Laidlaw gave his opening remarks and welcome to the membership. The motion that the minutes of the 1991 general meeting, as recorded in the Fall newsletter, be accepted was moved by J. German and seconded by Anna Chadwick.

The report of the Treasurer was presented to the membership. There is a total balance in the Association account of \$7,000. The motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Mike Green and seconded by Betty Neyman.

Further committee reports followed, the first being the membership committee. There is membership total of 311 with 85 membership dues outstanding. The committee will communicate to those with outstanding membership dues.

It was announced that budget cutbacks to the OPP had been reversed. It was also reported that Joyce Barr sat on the Community Police Committee. If anyone wanted to volunteer their boat to the police, they could give their name to Bob Cutter. Sgt. Hiles of the OPP was intro-

duced next. He brought to the members' attention the Bedford Community Police Committee again. Police officers next took questions from the membership. Police could use boats volunteered in an emergency only. The new speed limit will be difficult to enforce, however if anyone has particular problems, please contact police.

The MAPLE report stated that the program has been very successful however, it has not been exploited as much as it should be. All road signs have been repaired or replaced. Bedford Council is studying looking after signage. Water speed signs are enforceable by OPP. Members were told if they required yellow shoal markers to contact Pete Marshall. Mike Green reported on self-help program for water quality. Volunteers were not required except for Mill Bay. Kerry McGonegal reported on the ACRES study.

Angus laidlaw reported that the Official Plan has been reviewed by council and minor modifications have been made. Council is most concerned about the agricultural designator.

It was reported that the gypsy moth program has been suspended as the gypsy moth population has gone down. People will be notified in newsletter about spraying.

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nated approach. We will keep you posted as to the RVCA's activities and proposals.

Closer to home, in Bedford Township, Councillor Roxanne Darling-Greenslade has initiated a "Bedford Lakes Committee" which is designed to be a forum for residents to speak up on all manner of issues related to the lakes. The first three meetings, held in the summer and fall were formative in nature and drew sporadic attendance. Two of the meetings were over-represented by executive members of the lake associations. I say over-represented, not because association reps are unwelcome, but rather because it is the intention of Councillor Greenslade that the committee attract the participation of residents, permanent and seasonal, whether association members or not. The idea is to provide a sort of pipeline of information to township councillors. (The most recent meeting was also attended by Councillor Ashton). From my understanding, the committee would examine any lakes-related issue one wants to bring to the table. Over the winter, arrangements will be made for a meeting in late May, shortly before the May 24th holiday weekend. All are welcome. The meeting location, date and time will, hopefully be advertised in one form or another. We will advise you of details in the spring issue of the Newsletter.

Efforts by the volunteers involved with the walleye stocking program resulted in the release of about 10,000 fingerlings into Bob's Lake in mid-July. A number of Association members were on hand to view the work, which occupied the entire day. In addition to the "hands-on" volunteers who worked hard to collect the fish, a vote of thanks is due to the people who provided truck and boat transport and those who arranged the food and refreshments.

The MNR funds that were slated for the rehabilitation of Amey pond this fall were used instead to install a needed approach road at the pond. Conditions at the pond did not favour regrooming, which, instead will be undertaken next fall. MNR advises that pond regrooming every second year is appropriate in any event.

I cannot yet report that the Bedford Township official plan is passed. I understand from talking to several council members that there is agreement on the latest version, and that a public meeting will be called shortly to wrap up this phase of the process. After this, the plan is to be resubmitted to the Ontario government for comment.

Lastly, two reminders to members. For those who have not yet requested a subscription to the "Scoop", the record of Bedford Township Council meetings, I urge you to do so. It will keep you informed of developments throughout the year.

Collectively, our subscriptions are a signal to councillors of our ongoing interest in their activities on our behalf. You may subscribe to the "Scoop" by sending ten dollars to Mrs. Joyce Barr, R.R.#2, Godfrey, Ontario., K0H 1T0.

We always want to hear your comments about the newsletter, or anything else for that matter. Send them on to the editor, Bill St. Arnaud, or myself, or indeed any other Board member. Our addresses are printed in this issue.

A safe and short winter to all.

Angus Laidlaw

Annual meeting cont'd

This year 10,000, 2 1/4-4" fingerlings were successfully introduced into Bob's Lake. There was a question raised to find out from MNR, why there is a 4 day license, and not a 7 day one?

Awards were presented by Bob Cutter to Joyce Barr, and Betty Neyman accepted on behalf of Ed Villeneuve. Betty Neyman reported on the MAPLE study and how to use it. The question was raised about where to put the MAPLE books for members' reference.

Angus Laidlaw had attended the FOCA meeting and briefly mentioned John Sewell's report on new planning.

Under new business, cottagers were encouraged to attend the Bedford Lakes Committee.

During questions and concerns, the circumstances of Bob Leonard's resignation was raised as well as a rumour

that the GBLA was discouraging tourism. Angus Laidlaw responded that tourism is a big part of this township and has the complete support of the GBLA. In terms of Bob Leonard's resignation, Angus Laidlaw acknowledged the excellent job Bob Leonard had done and said that the fish stocking committee had been expanded at the Ministry's suggestion, to help Bob Leonard. The decision to resign was Bob Leonard's alone.

The beaver problem was mentioned and it was announced that the fall newsletter would include a list of MNR approved trappers.

A motion was passed to accept the current slate of directors as nominees to the board. A motion was passed to accept new members to the Board, Anna Chadwick, Jean Salter, Lynn McIntyre.

The meeting was adjourned.

Water Quality

Jean Salter

As one of the newest members of your Board of Directors, I'll be working with Michael Green on the water quality committee. I chose to work with Michael because I feel very strongly that water quality is something that we all must be concerned about. It is also the area in which we, by our individual actions, can have a profound impact on our lake environment.

In an effort to bring myself up to speed on some of the problems facing our lake I met for over two hours with Don Galloway who works with the Ministry of the Environment in Kingston. We covered a wide variety of issues but the most important concerned the limiting of phosphates in our lake. I know you've probably heard it all before but I think it bears repeating: Have a properly installed and maintained septic system, use low or no phosphate detergents and keep your shoreline as natural as possible so that shoreline vegetation can help eliminate some of the phosphorous before it reaches the lake.

On a related subject, I asked about weed growth in the lake and was told about an aquatic plant called Eurasian milfoil, a sample of which had recently been sent to the ministry by a cottager in Buck Bay. This is a tall, slender plant with fern type leaves that is the aquatic equivalent of the purple loosestrife in that it grows very aggressively and eliminates other forms of aquatic plant life. It also spreads quickly around a lake because it propagates through cuttings. This means that each small piece of the plant that is cut by a boat propeller, for example, can fall to the bottom of the lake and take root. While many of us consider these aquatic plants a nuisance, Mr. Galloway reminded me that they provide habitat for fish and that some plant growth should not be considered a problem. However, if you want to remove excessive aquatic vegetation for purposes of swimming or to gain access to a boat house or dock, a permit is required and can be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Finally, Mr. Galloway pointed out the wealth of information available from the Ministry of subjects from water quality to waste management. A publication that he particularly recommends is called, "Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish." This and other free pamphlets can be obtained at the Ministry offices in Kingston at 133 Dalton Avenue (549-4000) or from:

Environment Ontario
Public Information Centre
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5
1-800-565-4923

A Message to All Landowners with Shoreline

Betty Neyman, MAPLE Representative

MAPLE (The Mutual Association for the Preservation of the Environment) has completed the survey of Bob's Lake. The result is a series of books of photographs of the entire shoreline of the lake, keyed to books containing a description of each shoreline cottage with an analysis of whether or not each lakefront property needs regeneration of the shoreline, and if it does, what needs to be done to it.

The survey and analysis is available for examination at the public library in Westport.

If your shoreline needs regeneration, you can start by ceasing all mowing and weeding of a strip extending from the shoreline back 3 metres. This will allow native plants to start growing there.

You can go to the Boys' Camp on Christie Lake Road (County Hwy #6 to Perth) in October and help cut slips to be potted and grown in the MAPLE nursery through two winters before being given to cottagers for planting on their shores.

Next spring you can find out from Ed Villeneuve or any member of the board of the Bob's Lake Association when the planting day for Bob's Lake will be and where plants may be picked up. You can then go there and collect plants and get advice on how to plant them in the area you have let go without mowing. The plants have to be kept watered through the dry season.

In the years following you can increase the width of the shoreline strip to about 9 metres in all. This will essentially stop the runoff into the lake that comes from natural and human sources and this will in turn result in a dramatic reduction of algae and weeds in the lake, and a corresponding increase in clarity and purity.

If we all make use of the opportunity to improve the condition of the lake that is provided by MAPLE, we will do a great service to ourselves and to future generations. It is a self-help program that needs everyone's participation.

For more information, you may write to the Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association, c/o The Burrigge Store, R.R.#2, Godfrey, Ont. K0H 1T0.

Wildlife

Bob Sanderson

The consensus of those that I have talked to over the past five or six weeks, and at the annual meeting, is that our loon population had held its own, if not showing a slight increase this summer.

Using Green Bay as an example, this body of water supported at least three pair off and on from May to early September. Two pair were observed with one chick per pair and the other pair evidently had none.

Individuals on Bob's Lake both north and south, plus Green Bay, also indicated many sightings. I do not have definitive numbers for you, but the estimates were up, without question. Possibly next year we can have volunteers for specific areas to obtain a fairly accurate count both of adults and chicks.

One disturbing factor is the rafting of loons the third or fourth week of July, which indicates they did not have chicks. According to Joan Dunning's book, "The Loon", the first loon eggs usually hatch before Victoria Day. If not successful, many loons will lay another egg, which in turn should hatch by the middle of July. Those pairs that are not successful usually will start rafting anytime after that period. I received two accounts, one in Green Bay of seven loons being together the fourth week of July and another account of eight being together in Greater Bob's the third week of July.

Let's hope our feathered friends winter well and return to the Lake again next year.

PS: If you would like to volunteer to be on "loon patrol" next year, please give me a call at camp next May (613-273-5561).

Artificial Nesting Islands for Loons

Periodically, some will have questions concerning the above subject. This is especially true at our annual meeting, where several discussions ensued.

I am going to do a little plagiarizing here from a letter I received from the Loon Preservation committee of New Hampshire, which is a project of the Audubon Society.

The nesting islands or rafts were developed in the Midwest and first used for loons in New Hampshire in 1977. Now I quote "Since 1980, over 1/5 of the loon chicks hatched in New Hampshire have come from nests on these rafts.

I quote again from the letter, "But remember that the artificial raft island is just that, a tool, a biological management tool, and has its latitude of uses. The rafts are useful only in those cases for which they were designed, i.e., where breeding pairs of loons have failed at nesting due to shore line predation or water level fluctuation. The letter also goes on to say that a suitable site for the raft in the pairs' territory, water of appropriate depth out of the wind, boating lanes, etc. is necessary.

Dr. Judith McIntyre, who pioneered the use of these rafts in her doctoral dissertation, states that the rafts offer alternate nesting sites to established loon pairs but do not attract new pairs, and some loons just won't use them.

The proper location of these rafts is essential. They will not function properly when they are placed in a favourite fishing spot, water skiing area, and at worst, rafts may function as a negative factor to loon productivity when not used properly e.g., since 1980 in New Hampshire, the percentage of loon chicks hatched from raft nests has increased, while the actual number of rafts has decreased.

We should also understand that New Hampshire's program is heavily funded with many, many volunteers patrolling the loon areas, backed by wild life officials of the state, etc.

Not to say we can't use them, but we should go very slowly and not use a shotgun approach just to get rafts in the water.

Pet Vaccination Urged

"It is devastating for a family to lose their pet to rabies", says Freeman Hutchings, Director of Inspection Services at the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit, as he talks about the importance of vaccinating pets against the fatal disease.

"It's also difficult for people to go through a series of rabies shots if they are exposed to the disease. That's why we so strongly recommend that people get their pets vaccinated this winter or early next spring," he says.

The cost of rabies shots for a human is \$600 to \$800, while the cost to have your pet vaccinated is \$8.00, well worth the cost.

"Rabies is found mainly in the fox population of Southern Ontario," said Hutchings, "and this means we have the constant threat of an outbreak."

In 1986 a law was introduced making it mandatory to immunize all dogs and cats in Kingston and Frontenac and Lennox and Addington counties against rabies.

Introducing MAPLE 10 - An Immediate Start to Shoreland Restoration

MAPLE is pleased to announce the introduction of MAPLE 10. This program is designed to give all organizations and individuals an immediate start to the restoration of their shoreland.

There are two values attached to waterfront property. One is the recreational value we place upon it... the fishing, swimming, boating, hunting, the general closeness to nature. The other is the dollar value of our property. Many of us purchase property with the idea we will either retire to the area, or re-sell for a capital gain. Look at the advertisements for waterfront property. They all say the same thing...clean water, good swimming, excellent fishing on a peaceful body of water. The very things that give us the property's natural value, also account for its dollar value. Whether you want to maintain or improve your lakes quality for natural or dollar values, you are working towards the same goal. MAPLE believes this starts with a healthy, living shoreland. MAPLE 10 is the first step for lake organizations and individuals working to maintain the values of their lake and individual property.

MAPLE 10 is a self-help program designed to allow the maximum regeneration of shoreland with the minimum of effort. The lake associations are encouraged to organize their members and interested individuals to participate in MAPLE 10.

First, the shoreland owner measures a distance often feet from the water's edge, the high water mark would be the better. The area is marked off by signs, or string or any other methods the owner prefers. Then, the owner does nothing. No grass cutting, no spraying, no fertilizing and no work. This area will immediately begin to regenerate with natural plants.

In the first year, wild flowers and grasses get started. By the next year, small shrubs and trees indigenous to the area also begin to grow. Wildlife...frogs, birds, ducks and small fish will reappear as the vegetation begins to shield the shoreland and shallow water areas.

The MAPLE 10 program is designed to give the shoreland owners a head start on the regeneration of their lake. While they work with their association and MAPLE to get their lake surveyed and prepare for spring planting days, nature is working to restore the shoreland.

It is important that once a MAPLE 10 site has been started, that the landowner never cuts the grass or sprays with pesticides

or herbicides. Noxious plants such as poison ivy can be killed by covering them with six inches of hay, and allowing the hay to compost on them. Burdock and purple loosestrife can be pulled by hand, preferably before they begin to seed. Remember, if the landowner lets a MAPLE 10 site regenerate for a year, and then mows the area, one full year of regeneration has been lost. MAPLE urges existing cottage owners to allow a minimum of ten feet to regenerate under the MAPLE 10 program. For landowners who are opening a new site, it is recommended that they leave a minimum of 10 meters of shoreland undisturbed.

Signs

Peter Marshall

Bedford Council turned down our request to take over maintenance of our road signs. Consequently, please advise Pete Marshall (273-64334) if any signs are missing or need repainting. Hopefully Council will reconsider once all the stop signs etc. have been installed in the Township.

Buoys

Buoys should be in by now. We have a new supply on had ready for spring - if you need one or more please contact Pete Marshall (273-6434).

Membership

Barb Merrill

Thank you all for your membership renewal. The response to our reminder letter was great. We knew you just "forgot." Our membership now stands at 328. Please make sure all of your friends and neighbours are members. We must strive for growth. Season's greetings and best wishes to you.

Beaver Trappers

The following are MNR recommended beaver trappers:

- Cecil Cota 375-6343
- Richard Jones 273-5231
- Gerald Mulville 273-5229
- Dan Hartsell 353-6423

Preliminary Forest Conditions 1992

Lynn McIntyre

The summer of 1992 will be remembered as being cool and wet. It was the coolest summer on record. That may come as no surprise, however, contrary to popular belief it was not the wettest! The unusual weather conditions greatly influenced the forest insect development in Eastern Ontario. After several summers of unseasonably hot and dry weather, drought damage had occurred in various parts of Ontario. A reprieve from the hot dry conditions this summer allowed the forests to recover somewhat and certain tree species have shown substantial growth rates. Growing conditions were optimum for tree seedlings, showing a 95-100% survival rate, (in a normal year, survival rates average 80%). Coniferous trees such as spruce, pine, and cedar had substantial growth rates with an exceptional seed crop.

Gypsy Moth

The cool spring we experienced may have had an adverse effect on the larval development of the gypsy moth and probably increased the incidence of viral and fungal mortality of gypsy moth caterpillars. As the cool spring extended into summer the development of the caterpillar, pupae and moth was prolonged with the flight of the male moth and subsequent mating extending well into mid-September. Normally, the male flight and mating period is complete by mid-August. Low survival rates of the gypsy moth egg mass during the 1991-92 winter coupled with a natural decline in the population cycle has led to a low area of defoliation. **Forestry Canada data indicate a decline in the area of moderate-to-severe defoliation from 347,415 hectares in 1991 to 34,460 hectares in 1992.** Although it may be too early to accurately forecast the extent or severity of the gypsy moth population for 1993, early indicators reveal that the population will remain low in Southern Ontario. Taylor Scarr, Provincial Entomologist indicated that there may be an increase in gypsy moth activity along the northern leading edge around Sudbury and Espanola.

Forest Tent Caterpillar

The forest tent caterpillar which has recently plagued the eastern part of Ontario appears to be abating as well. Only pockets of defoliation were report in some isolated areas. **The results of Forestry Canada's Defoliation Surveys for Eastern Region show a decline in the level of moderate-to-severe defoliation from 329,023 hectares in 1991 to 40,521 hectares in 1992.** Field observations indicate that the FTC population to decline further in previously infested areas, while it will continue to spread eastward to the Ottawa area and infest new areas. Parts of Northern Ontario are expected to see an increase in FTC especially in the Hearst and Kapuskasing areas.

Did you know?

- Deciduous trees provide shade which can reduce air conditioning needs by up to 75%
- Trees can reduce wind speed from 20-25 miles per hour reducing fuel use in BTU's by 25%.
- Homes with surrounding trees are 5-6 degrees Celsius cooler in the daytime than those without.
- A 70 ft. shadetree can evaporate 100 gallons of water a day equal to 5 average room air conditioners.

Organizing Aerial Spraying for Forest Insect Defoliators

If you are considering protecting the health of your trees from defoliating insects such as the gypsy moth or the forest tent caterpillar, aerial spraying is but one option that you may consider. Your decision to aerial spray your trees should be based on the susceptibility of your trees to defoliation and the population dynamics of the target pests. Both the forest tent caterpillar and the gypsy moth have developed cycles with peaks in the population that last for two to three years and then plummet.

The latest decline in the gypsy moth population as well as provincial budget constraints prompted the cancellation of the municipal/provincial aerial spray program. It is now up to the landowner to determine when aerial spraying should take place.

What does it cost?

Since aerial spraying is no longer subsidized by the provincial government, factors such as the size of the property, the distance from the air field, proximity to other spray blocks and the applicator's fee determine the cost per acre. In 1992, landowners obtained spraying at a cost ranging from \$22.80 to \$75.00 per acre (for two application of the biological insecticide, Bt).

How to obtain the services of an aerial applicator.

The following steps briefly outline the procedure involved:

1. Decide whether you trees require aerial treatment from forest tent caterpillar and/or gypsy moth. Aerial spraying is not

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Cottage Country from the other side of the fence

Reprinted from the Globe and Mail

Kathlyn Lambi

My blouse is sticking to my back as I stand in line at the store, a pound of hamburger in one hand, a bag of milk in the other. The store is air-conditioned, unlike my office, and I'm tired and clammy now instead of tired and hot.

In front of me three shirtless young men are arguing loudly about whether or not they should pay these outrageous prices for the frozen lobster tails, or whether the T-bone steaks might be "enough" by themselves.

Linda, the cashier, glances at me and smiles as I shift my weight from one foot to the other. It's been a long day. She's about to total the purchases (they decided to keep the lobster tails) when one of the young men remembers something.

"Soda!" We're almost out of club soda!" He heads back down the aisle, his sandals flapping on the floor. His friend groans with disgust. "You don't mix single malt with soda." He notices me for the first time and grins. I force myself to smile back.

I live in cottage country.

At the hardware store (my last after-work stop), I watch as a man and woman mull over the selection of blister-packed deadbolts.

"Maybe we should just take the VCR and microwave home this year," the woman worries. She sighs. "We never used to have to worry about vandals in cottage country."

Cottage country. You hear that expression on the radio as some announcer tells you that traffic on the roads to cottage country is heavy; or there's been snow in cottage country; or cottage owners in some cottage country or another are up in arms over local tax increases.

You don't hear much about the people who actually live there; the people for whom it isn't cottage country but home.

The woman notices me and smiles.

"Somebody broke into our cottage last winter," she says. "They didn't even take anything. They just made a mess." She sighs.

"If they needed something - food, maybe, I could understand but they just spilled the food all over. They weren't hungry. I just don't understand."

I am silent, unable to think of anything to say. And I am a little ashamed because part of me does understand the vandals.

She's right. The vandals were probably not hungry. At least not for food. But perhaps they were hungry for a piece of that good life - the one that allows other people to drive new cars and own powerful boats and leave VCRs and television sets and microwaves unused for half the year.

Doubtless they can't now and never will be able to afford a second "winterized home" occupying a half-million dollars worth of real estate, furnished with a second VCR, power tools and likely as much extra food as the local food bank holds.

And it's not just consumer goods that are out of their reach.

People who live and work in "cottage country" are often prevented even from access to their own lakes because the shores are rimmed with these second homes of people who make more money in one year than most of the "locals" make in three. They may well resent the fact that they are restricted to one or two overcrowded public parks while absentee owners control the rest of the comparatively empty beaches.

In many cases, local municipalities had neither the foresight nor the money to acquire waterfront property for their residents. The only beaches accessible to the "locals" are owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and are operated for the benefit of tourists. They charge admission, open in May when the tourist season starts and close down again in late summer when the "season" is over.

The money that cottagers bring into the area should make it easier to bear, but the fact is many people make a point of gassing up in the city where gas is cheaper and filling up the trunk with groceries from city discount chains.

Sometimes it's hard for us "locals" to be as warm and welcoming as our tourist council would like us to be. Perhaps what we need is a lit of rules posted at the entrance to cottage country: rules like the ones you find on the back of hotel room doors in strange cities. For instance:

Do not call this cottage country. It exist not only for the convenience of vacationers. Real people live here year-round. Respect the local culture. Pretend you are vacationing in Mexico or Jamaica and don't make disparaging remarks about the way people dress or talk or the vehicles they drive. At least not loudly in the language they understand.

Don't flaunt your money. See your cottage or summer home in the context in which it really exists. It is a pocket of affluence in a poor neighbourhood. Don't be hurt and surprised if people resent that.

Do spend your money. Learn the location of businesses other than the liquor store. Buy your groceries in town, gas up locally. And remember when you leave - the lights don't go out. They just dim a little.

Kathlyn Lambi is a freelance writer living in the Ottawa Valley.

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a preventative technique, there is no sense spraying for a problem that does not exist.

2. Determine the area want to be treated, (this is called the spray block). Remember not all trees are susceptible to defoliation from the forest tent caterpillar or the gypsy moth.

3. Speak to your neighbours who may be interested in protecting their trees. The larger the spray block the lower the cost per acre.

4. Appoint one or two spokesperson(s) for the spray block. The spokesperson(s) can prepare a tender to be forwarded to aerial applicators which should contain the following information:

- The insect you wish to control
- The time you prefer the property to be treated (ie. not on long weekends, however. Remember the more restrictive you are on application timing the more costly the job)
- The type of insecticide to be used
- A copy of the spray block, indicating the size and the boundaries (be as precise as possible)
- A statement that the applicator will be liable for all damages as a result of the operation, ie. "hold harmless the landowner"
- Send the tender to several companies. Some companies can offer you more than just spraying, such as insect monitoring, larval development, therefore prices can vary.

5. Select and notify the successful applicator.

6. The application of pesticides is the mandate of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. They require that the spray block be posted at the time of spraying, this is the responsibility of the applicator.